

A Message to the American Business Community

April 20, 2006

The U.S. Government is working with the people of Iraq to build the foundation for a strong economy and vibrant private sector which can lead to greater peace and security in Iraq and across the region. Private-sector investment is important to growing the economy and creating jobs. As Iraq addresses its challenges, it is essential to the country's future that American corporations become engaged in the country and facilitate private-sector development.

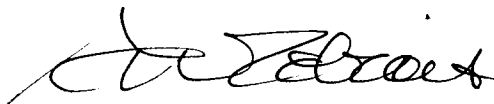
In May 2001 the Global Development Alliance (GDA) was launched as a new business model for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The GDA is an excellent mechanism for U.S. companies to lend their expertise to the important work of economic development. Over the past several years, USAID has encouraged and implemented hundreds of new public-private partnerships which have enhanced the impact of official U.S. development assistance abroad and leveraged millions of dollars in contributions from businesses, foundations, and individuals.

Around the world and particularly in the Middle East, many American companies are working with USAID/GDA to implement exciting projects that are improving the lives of people and demonstrating corporate social responsibility. For example, Cisco Systems established training centers in Jordan and Morocco where women are receiving training in computer networking. In Egypt and Lebanon, Junior Achievement, with the support of ExxonMobil and Citibank, is teaching fundamental business skills to future entrepreneurs.

In Iraq, American agribusinesses are working with Iraqi farmers and food processors to improve productivity and efficiency; information technology companies are establishing training centers across the country; and multinational oil companies are helping to develop the capacity of Iraq's petroleum sector.

If your company would like to join with the U.S. Government and Iraqi counterparts to build a public-private partnership, please send an email to iraqgda@usaid.gov. Our colleagues at USAID/Iraq will work with you to build an alliance, establish a work plan, and ultimately create sustainable economic development in Iraq.

Thank you for your interest and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Tobias", written in a cursive style.

Ambassador Randall L. Tobias